



# Matthewis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center

74 John Street, Kingston, NY

Keeping Ulster County's  
History Alive!



## 2021

### August Schedule & Special Events

Presented by the  
Ulster County Clerk's Office



## About the House



The Matthewis Persen House is one of Ulster County's oldest, most significant buildings. Named after its longest residing owner, Matthewis Persen (1739-1810), the House is located within Kingston's Stockade National Historic District. Its earliest portions date from c. 1661 and it is one of four landmark buildings on each corner of John and Crown Streets. Each house at this intersection pre-dates the Revolutionary War.

The Persen House has been the home of doctors, tailors, innkeepers, druggists, grocers, and Ulster County government. It was burned at least twice, saw wars and revolution, and survived to tell its tale. To walk through this remarkable building, is to walk through Ulster County's rich local history!

Restoration of the Persen house began in 1999. During the restoration, the historic significance of the structure was uncovered. The house has been left unfinished to highlight the architectural significance of the different phases.

The Persen House functions as Ulster County's Heritage Gateway. Cultural Heritage Groups from throughout the county Guest Host at the House and share their treasure troves of history & culture with visitors. We look forward to a fun and educational season!

### 2021 Hours of Operation

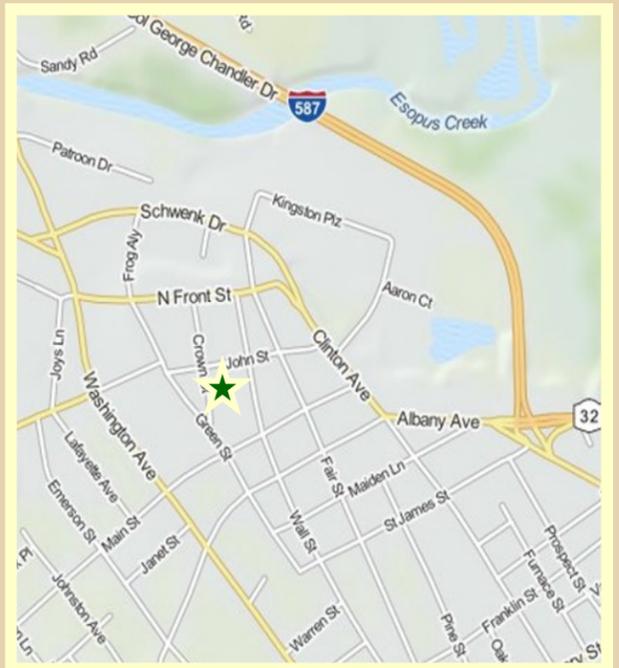
June 17 – September 4:

Thursdays & Fridays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
& Saturdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

September 11—October 30:

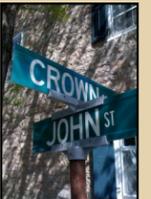
Saturdays Only 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

## 74 John Street Kingston, New York 12401



Conveniently located minutes from the NYS Thruway on the corner of John & Crown Streets in uptown Kingston's Stockade National Historic District.

**Parking:** Metered parking lots and on-street parking are available throughout uptown Kingston. The Ulster County Courthouse on Wall Street and the Ulster County Office Building on the corner of Main & Fair Streets both offer free weekend parking. There is also free parking at the Kingston Plaza every day, less than a half mile walk from the house.



## Guest Host Presentations & Events in August

Open Thursdays and Fridays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm & Saturdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

### Saturday, August 7, 10:00 am—4:00 pm

#### Historic Huguenot Street presents "Pathway to the Ballot Box"

Join Historic Huguenot Street as they bring a preview of their new "Pathway to the Ballot Box" immersive theatre program to the Persen House! Throughout the experience visitors will come face-to-face with a local female historical figure, who will tell her story and answer audience questions about her life and time period. There will also be information available about regular guided tours on Huguenot Street in New Paltz, as well as their special exhibits and events.



### Saturday, August 14, 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

#### My Kingston Kids Red-K Reading Lounge

The MKK Red-K Reading Lounge is a traveling and interactive program that provides diverse stories with all cultures in mind. The storytellers are interesting, exciting and informative about the books they choose to read. Today, join the storytellers as they read *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin. Pre-register for this event at [www.mykingstonkids.com](http://www.mykingstonkids.com) (registration is not required to listen to the story).



### Saturday, August 21, 10:00 am—1:00 pm

#### Woodstock School of Art Watercolor & Drawing Demonstrations

Join the Woodstock School of Art for a Plein Air watercolor and drawing demonstrations done by instructor Staats Fasoldt. Staats' paintings are direct interpretations of nature that stress spontaneity as method. He is an exponent of the minimal statement. Staats has an MFA in painting from SUNY New Paltz and has taught at The Woodstock School of Art for 30 Years.



## Season Long Exhibits

### Gysbert's Inventory: A Reflection of 1665 Dutch Life



The legacy of the Dutch settlers of Wiltwyck lives on at the Matthevis Persen House. The house was originally owned by Gysbert Van Imbroch, a barber-surgeon. An inventory listing Gysbert's possessions at the time of his death in 1665 is brought to life through illustrations of clothing, kitchen items, medical supplies, books and other articles used in 17th century daily life. Step back in time with *Gysbert's Inventory*. This exhibit was made possible through a grant awarded to the Ulster County Clerk's Office from the New York State Archives.

### Artifacts Uncovered: A Closer Look



An exhibit featuring an up close and detailed explanation of some of the artifacts found in the archaeological dig done at the Persen House. Learn about a 1200 BC projectile point and the second only known Bodkin in New York State. You like cannonballs? We have them and know where they were found in the house. What has brought the house good fortune? Could it be the old shoe found in the attic of the house? Explore, learn more and have some fun all at the same time!

### Daily Dutch: Exploring Aspects of Dutch Life through the Records



Daily Dutch examines aspects of Dutch life in Wiltwyck in the 1660s. Learn about local farming as well as currency and trading. The exhibit features records from the Dutch Colonial Records Collection and images of artifacts found during an archaeological excavation at the Persen House.

### Guardians of the Gateway: Recognizing 10 years of Persen House Guest Hosts



The Matthevis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center invites historical and cultural heritage groups from around Ulster County to Guest Host on Saturdays throughout the season each year. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, guest host organizations were not be able to join us. To honor our Guest Hosts' contributions to Ulster County's history and heritage, as well as the Persen House itself, we present this exhibit. Look back through some of the many events, exhibits and presentations from 2010-2019 and see the impact each group has made. While we may not have pictures of all of our guest hosts, we hope this exhibit gives you a better understanding of the diverse and dynamic hosts at the Persen House throughout the years.

### Earthday Everyday—"No matter our differences, we always have something in common"



Local photographer and eco workshop facilitator Star Nigro has developed a traveling, mural project with help from the talented youth of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's RAPP (Relatives As Parents) 4-H program. The participating artists created the mural concept, and a quote to represent their gift to the community; "No matter our differences, we always have something in common."

"Earthday Everyday" was created using everyday objects and recycled materials. Each artist was given a panel made of recycled pallet wood to decorate in their own style. When placed together, the individual panels create a unified image. "Earthday Everyday" won first place at the Ulster County Fair, along with a ribbon for outstanding exhibit at the New York State Fair in Syracuse.

### A Sampling of Kingston History Then & Now Presented by Blauweiss Media



Take a mini walking tour all in one room at this exhibition which features selected highlights of historic buildings that still exist as well as those that have been lost or altered. Enjoy a museum-quality display with many historic large-format photographs accompanied by relevant information and lesser-known anecdotes. Plus, get a sneak peek at some of the image-packed pages from the presenters' upcoming book about Kingston will feature more than 850 images.

## Four Corners Historic Marker



This Historic Marker was made possible through a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation® awarded to the Ulster County Clerk's Office. The grant provided funding for the manufacturing of an historic marker which is placed at the "Four Corners" intersection. Each stone house at the intersection of Crown and John Streets pre-dates the Revolutionary War. The County Clerk's Archives provided primary source documents for each stone house verifying their origins were prior to the Revolutionary War. The historic houses at this intersection are the Matthevis Persen House built in 1661, the Kingston Academy built pre-1773, the Dr. Matthew Jansen House built circa 1663, and the Franz Roggen House built pre-1767.

## Kingston Stockade National Historic District

The **Kingston Stockade National Historic District** is an eight-block area in the western section of Kingston, New York, commonly referred to as **Uptown Kingston**. It is the original site of the mid-17th century Dutch settlement of Wiltwyck, which was later renamed Kingston when it passed to English control.

It is the only one of three original Dutch settlements in New York surrounded by stockades where the outline of the stockade is still evident due to the raised ground. Within the area are many historic buildings from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, including the Ulster County Courthouse, the Senate House where the state of New York was established in 1777, and the Old Dutch Church, a National Historic Landmark. Some survived the Burning of Kingston by British forces during the Revolutionary War. The intersection of Crown and John streets has Colonial-era Dutch stone houses on all four corners, all of which pre-date the Revolutionary War.

From its founding in the mid-17th century to the creation of the modern city of Kingston in 1872, the history of the Stockade District is the history of Kingston. Most of its older buildings were restored and rebuilt in the years after the 1777 burning of the village by the British, and its historic character has been made diverse as significant buildings were erected throughout the 19th century.

The final layout of the original Stockade is shown in the Miller Map (right), which can be found in Volume 13 of *Documents Relative to Colonial History of the State of New York*. The map was designed by an Anglican Priest named John Miller in 1695. On his way back to England, Miller was captured by French Privateers, but managed to throw his notes overboard. After being paroled from the French, he returned to England and recreated the map from memory.

